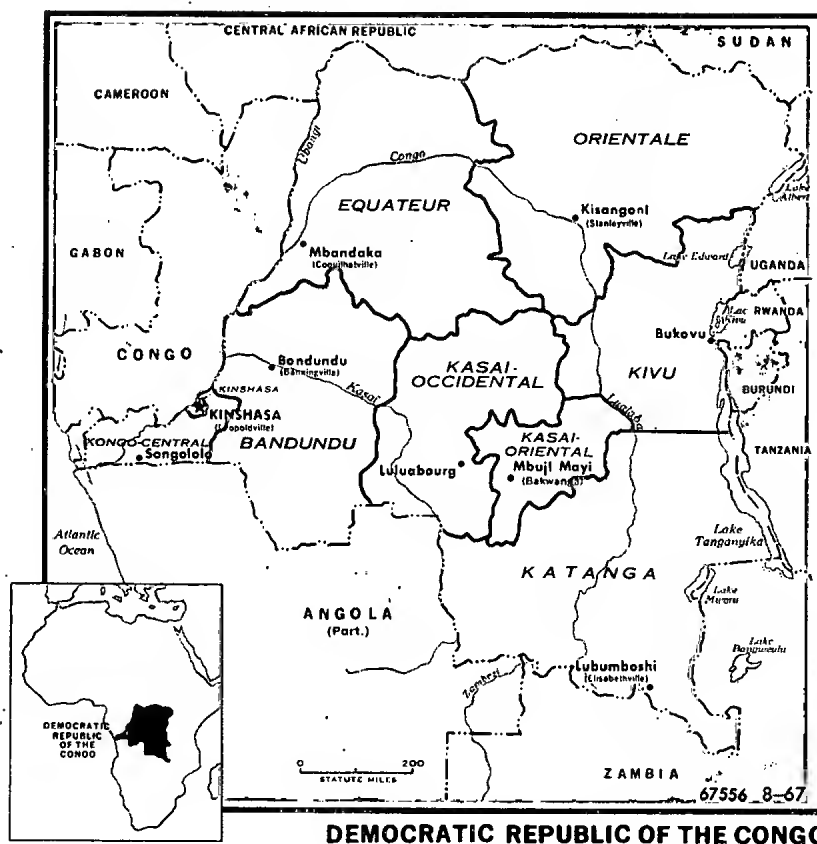


The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 15 August 1967



50X1



DAILY BRIEF
15 AUGUST 1967

1. Congo

Mobutu may accept some sort of international fact-finding mission as a bridge between Kinshasa and the mercenaries. Mobutu, who flatly refuses to deal directly with the mercenaries, agreed with Ambassador McBride last night that such a plan "might be acceptable." This morning the Ambassador will pursue the matter, suggesting an approach to the International Red Cross.

Europeans in the Congo are near panic after yesterday's attack on the Belgian Embassy. There is no exact count on the number of whites in the Congo, but there are over 1,700 US citizens and on the order of 35,000-40,000 Belgians. The worst jitters are in Katanga Province, where rumors of an impending mercenary invasion continue to fly like shrapnel. The Europeans in Katanga would be hard put to get out in a hurry.

If the mercenaries have any plans, they are keeping them to themselves. Major Schramme and his followers remain in Bukavu. There are reports that other mercenaries are planning to link up with Schramme in Katanga and eventually move on to Kinshasa itself. Whether these reports are true, they are believed by the Congolese.

There is some dickering under way between the Soviets and Mobutu. Restoring diplomatic relations is almost certainly one subject--the Russians were thrown out of Kinshasa in 1963.

50X1

2. Nigeria

Gowon and the federal Nigerian government have an arms deal going with Moscow. We are not sure just what sort of weapons are involved

50X1

3. South Vietnam

50X1

4. Middle East

Judging by press commentary, Tito is not having much luck selling his peace proposal to the Arabs. The Israelis have already rejected it without being asked. Tito was in Syria yesterday and he is in Iraq today.

5. Arab States -
Israel

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a Special National Intelligence Estimate, The Short-Term Arab-Israeli Military Balance. Its main conclusions are as follows:

- The Arab states will be unable to launch an effective attack on Israel in the next few months, and indeed for a considerable time thereafter.
- Israel's margin of military superiority is even greater than before the war, despite a Soviet resupply effort which has restored much equipment lost by the Egyptians and Syrians.
- A surprise Arab air attack cannot be completely ruled out, but is unlikely. Arab terrorist activity may occur, but a major guerrilla warfare campaign against Israel is also unlikely.

Top Secret